



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR  
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION  
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 739  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012  
<http://lachildrenscommission.org>**

**Monday, April 8, 2013**

**10:00 AM**

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (13-1820)

**Attachments:** [AUDIO](#)

Call to Order. (13-1507)

**The meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m.**

**I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

Present: Chair Geneva Berger, Vice Chair Helen Kleinberg, Vice Chair Susan F. Friedman, Commissioner Carol O. Biondi, Commissioner Patricia Curry, Commissioner Ann E. Franzen, Commissioner Dr. Sunny Kang, Commissioner Dr. La-Doris McClaney, Commissioner Sandra Rudnick, Commissioner Adelina Sorkin LCSW/ACSW and Commissioner Martha Trevino-Powell

Excused: Commissioner Daphne Ng and Commissioner Steven M. Olivas Esq.

1. Introduction of April 8, 2013 Meeting attendees. (13-1508)

**Self-introductions were made.**

2. Approval of the April 8, 2013 Meeting Agenda. (13-1510)

**On motion of Commissioner Adelina Sorkin LCSW/ACSW, seconded by Commissioner Ann E. Franzen, unanimously carried, (Commissioners Ng and Olivas being absent), this item was approved.**

3. Approval of the minutes from the Meeting of March 18, 2013. (13-1511)

**On motion of Commissioner Dr. Sunny Kang, seconded by Commissioner Dr. La Doris McClaney, unanimously carried, (Commissioners Ng and Olivas being absent), this item was approved.**

**Attachments:**    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

## **II. REPORTS**

4. Chair's report for April 8, 2013 by Genevra Berger, Chair. (13-1512)
- **The following motions by Supervisors Mark Ridley-Thomas, Chair and Michael D. Antonovich were approved by the Board of Supervisors (Board) at their March 19, 2013 meeting:**
    - **Supervisor Ridley-Thomas' substitute motion to recommendation continued from the meeting of March 12, 2013 instructing the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to transfer \$286,000 in appropriation from the Assignment for the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to the DCFS operating budget to fund the implementation of the 241.1 Crossover Youth Project and costs associated with substance abuse treatment services provided by Department of Public Health for the duration of Fiscal Year 2012-13; and**
    - **Supervisor Antonovich's amendment instructing the CEO to identify funding in the designation for DCFS, or any other sources such as through the Affordable Care Act, to allocate \$1,143,000 for Fiscal Year 2013-14, and in future years, depending on evaluation outcomes.**
  - **Executive Liaison, Sylvia Drew Ivie, has been working with the Executive Office on the process for developing a logo for the Commission. Commissioners that are interested in participating on a committee for the development of a logo should inform Ms. Drew Ivie or Commission staff of their interest. Additionally, the Executive Office is enhancing several Commission websites which may provide opportunities for changes to the Commission's website. Please provide any ideas and/or recommendations you may have to Ms. Drew Ivie or Commission staff.**
  - **The Center for Juvenile Law & Policy, Loyola Law School, is honoring Commissioner Biondi with the Sister Janet Harris Juvenile Advocate Award on May 9, 2013.**

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- **Kim Belshé, Executive Director of the First 5 LA Commission, will be presenting at the next Commission meeting scheduled for April 22, 2013. This meeting will be held at St. Anne's, in Los Angeles.**
  - **Commissioner La Doris McClaney is resigning from the Commission; this will be her last meeting she attends. La Doris McClaney has served on the Commission for twelve years. The Commission extended its thanks for her years of service and wishes her the best.**

**La Doris McClaney expressed gratitude towards the Commission for the knowledge and experience she gained while collaborating with the Commission.**

**By common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.**

- 5. DCFS Director's report for April 8, 2013 by Philip Browning, Director, DCFS. (13-1513)**

**Director Browning reported the following:**

- **The recommended County Budget is scheduled to be presented to the Board on April 16, 2013. DCFS is in a better position than previously expected with the effects of the realignment.**
- **There are some issues with AB 12 cost neutrality and concerns with the Katie A. Waiver, specifically in regards to reducing County expenditures. DCFS is seeking additional clarification on the Medi-Cal Documentation Manual. The goal is to allow providers to bill more to Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT). The Title IV-E Waiver (Waiver) request for an additional five years has been sent for Federal consideration.**
- **Commercial sex trafficking continues to be of interest at the County, State, and Federal level. For several years, the Probation Department has taken the lead on this issue. DCFS is looking towards creating a unit that specifically deals with sex trafficking issues. Carissa Phelps, author of "Runaway Girl: Escaping Life on the Streets, One Helping Hand at a Time," and survivor of sex trafficking, suggested in a recent meeting that having a survivor on staff to provide expertise in this area would assist in dealing with this crime.**
- **The Core Practice Model has been implemented in the DCFS Compton and Pomona offices. A schedule for implementing this Model throughout the department exists; however, its implementation is reliant**

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on the modification of existing agreements with Schools of Social Work. These schools have agreed to change their core curriculum.

- Director Browning distributed a document showing the number of contracts to be awarded and funding allocations per Service Planning Area (SPA) or Regional Office and explained that for several years family preservation contractors were allocated additional funding through the Waiver with the understanding that the additional funding was a one-time allocation. The contractors have expressed concerns with their contracts reverting back to the previous funding of approximately \$30 million.
- School records for Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) students are now available to DCFS staff through a database that enables the sharing of school information between DCFS and LAUSD.

In response to questions posed by the Commission, Director Browning responded with the following:

- The Waiver is not expected to have an increase in funding that would allow additional allocation to Family Preservation. Potential availability of funds with the State realignment, may allow additional funding for Family Preservation.

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

Attachments:     [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

### **III. PRESENTATION**

6. Report by Child Welfare Initiative (CWI) on recommendations regarding housing, programs and services related to Transition Age Youth (TAY).

- Andrew Bridge, Executive Director (13-1516)

Mr. Bridge distributed a document titled, "Transition Age Youth, Housing and Service Roadmap, A Best Practices Framework" and reported the following:

- In 2010, CWI brought together over 35 executives and senior staff from Los Angeles County's major Transition Age Youth (TAY) housing and service providers. The group included shelter care, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, employment, education, and mental health providers. The group agreed to develop a best practice

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framework and concrete policy recommendations for expanding the capacity, availability, and range of housing and service options for transition age youth. CWI created two research tools, the first being the Service Inventory to develop uniform information on existing housing, services, program requirements, and funding streams for TAY within the County. The second research tool was an Effective Practices/Barriers Survey to identify existing case planning, admissions, discharge, length of stay, education, and employment practices that produce positive outcomes for youth and remove barriers to the expansion of those practices.

- CWI held focus groups with TAY outside the presence of providers and asked the youth which services had been most useful in achieving their goals, and which programs had been least helpful and supportive; and what recommendations they have had for improvement.
- A review was conducted of the County's existing housing and supportive services contracts and the Request for Proposals (RFP) for new contracts to assess barriers to flexible case planning. Restrictions on funding sources within the County's contracts were examined as well as Federal and State regulations. This examination intended to map County imposed barriers that are under the County's control to change. The two barriers identified included: 1) provider- imposed barriers; and 2) barriers imposed by County officials in public contracts. These barriers have a significant impact on youth outcomes.

Minsun Park Meeker, Senior Policy Director, provided the following overview of CWI Best Practices Framework:

- The objectives of the framework are to increase service utilization and effectiveness for TAY programs with a focus on housing and supportive services for older and former foster and probation youth, and expanding services to the most at-risk youth.

The framework is designed around the following four core principles:

1. Individualized planning;
  2. Youth Driven Process;
  3. Developmentally appropriate, non-punitive programs;
  4. Services focused on realistic outcomes.
- CWI recommends addressing internal barriers imposed by providers, including program criteria that limits access to youth highest at-risk, and program rules and restrictions that are difficult for youth to meet because they are not appropriate for the youth's developmental stage.

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CWI partnered with Hillside and Hathaway-Sycamores, two of the largest TAY housing and support providers to implement this Best Practices Framework to serve more high-risk youth in the County.

- To address government imposed barriers that impede the implementation of the Best Practices Framework for TAY, CWI focused on three major transitional housing and supportive services contracts which included; 1) Transitional Housing Program (THP) Plus funded through the State, 2) Independent Living Program (ILP) funded through the Federal Chafee Foster Care Independent Living Program, and 3) HUD Housing funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Additional CWI recommendations are as follows:

1. Remove the County's 24-month limit on accessing ILP housing services and only use the federally mandated 18 to 21 age requirement to allow 18 – year olds who enter the ILP housing program up to three years of support.
2. Remove the County's expense restriction on federal ILP funding to allow providers to use funds for both housing operations and supportive services in order to maximize the leveraging of private and public dollars.
3. Remove the County's THP-Plus requirement that 50% of youth must already have a job when they enter the Program, and that youth who are unemployed at Program entry must find a job within 60 days. This change will allow THP-Plus to accommodate the needs of former foster youth with no prior work experience.
4. Amend the County's THP-Plus requirement for a youth interview during the admission process to allow providers to use this tool to assess the immediate safety of the youth and to conduct more thorough assessments in later case planning.
5. Change the County's aggregate outcome requirements in the ILP, THP-Plus, and HUD Housing contracts to allow providers to measure youth's progress along a continuum in meeting their case-plan goals; to incorporate mixed strategies for ongoing performance adjustments, based on a program's past performance, youth served, as well as economic and other conditions; and to provide incentives to encourage more and better services for high-risk youth.

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

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Attachments:     [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

#### **IV. COMMITTEE UPDATES**

##### **7. First 5 LA**

- Patricia Curry, Commission Representative (13-1340)

**Commissioner Curry provided a brief history of First 5 LA and reported the following:**

- **First 5 LA is an initiative funded by Proposition 10 providing a tax on tobacco. The program was launched in 2000. In 2011 as a result of an audit conducted on First 5 LA, there were many changes in administration, some of which included financial reporting. In December of 2012, Kim Belshé was appointed Executive Director to First 5 LA.**
- **The Best Start Program was a project of First 5 LA launched in July 2010 to support Parents and Partnerships in 14 high-need communities. Each community undertook development of a plan that would meet their individual needs. Over 5000 persons have participated since the launch and \$9.7 million have been invested in communication, partnership and evaluation planning. This represents 5% of the total First 5 LA Commission budget. Most of the funding has gone for planning, although some areas are functioning in programs like “home visitation” that were already underway. On March 14, 2013, the Commission voted to invest \$2.1 million, \$150,000 per community, for 6 months while a review of the program continued under Ms. Kim Belshé’s direction. Communication, partnership evaluation, and capacity building will all be addressed in that period of time. There are many decisions to be made going forward on what First 5 LA is to fund, and what to measure as outcomes.**
- **The Commission will have an opportunity to suggest new elements of the next First 5 LA’s Strategic Plan which will begin in 2014. DCFS, Director Philip Browning’s participation as a Commissioner will also be helpful. It will also be important for the Commission to be heard on the discussion of continued funding for LAUP (Los Angeles Universal Preschool), whose contract ends in 2016.**

**Commissioner Curry added that she and Jacquelyn McCroskey met with First 5 LA to explore if programs already in operation might not reach out to serve more foster youth. As a result of this effort, there is some crossover taking place between First 5 LA, and the Departments of Children and Family Services, Mental Health, and Public Health.**

**Several documents were provided at the First 5 LA meetings including the following:**

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- **First 5 LA's 2009 to 2015 Strategic Plan**
  - **Listening, Learning, Leading Initiative: A review and assessment of First 5 LA's Strategic Plan (January 10, 2013 Meeting)**
  - **Long Term Financial Projection – Fiscal Year 2013-17 (January 10, 2013 Meeting): Note revenue is projected to go down as smoking decreases**
  - **Defining Success for Best Start (April 3, 2013 Special Meeting)**
  - **Best Start Communities: Options to Continue Work in the Communities (March 14, 2013 Board Meeting)**
  - **Strategic Plan Update: Implementation of Countywide Strategies – Public Policy (April 11, 2013 Meeting)**

Commissioners were encouraged to visit the First 5 LA website for information. Commission staff will provide documents referenced above to the Commission. Ms. Belshé provides an extensive Executive Director's report at each meeting incorporating First 5 LA activities and other happenings related to children.

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

Attachments:     [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)  
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## **V. MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Matters Not Posted**

8. Matters not posted on the agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the Commission, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (13-1517)

**There were none.**

### **Announcements**

9. Announcements for the meeting of April 8, 2013. (13-1518)

**There were none.**

10. **Public Comment**

Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (13-1521)

**No members of the public addressed the Commission.**

### **Adjournment**

11. Adjournment of the meeting of April 8, 2013. (13-1522)

**The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.**